NOTE XXXIII.

ON GYMNURA CANDIDA.

BY

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It is a fact long since known to Naturalists, that there are among the *Gymnura rafflesii*-specimens many albinos, but a few weeks ago visiting several Musea of Natural History, I was greatly surprised to find that all these albino-specimens were from Borneo, and that none of the collections I examined contained either a so called albino from Sumatra or from Malacca, or a dark colored specimen from Borneo. Professor Schlegel in his book entitled "Handleiding tot de beoefening der Dierkunde, 1857, Deel I", says "In the Borneo-specimens of *Gymnura rafflesii* the "whole body is variegated with white", and Dr. Günther, P. Z. S. L. 1876, p. 425, speaking from the Borneo-form, which he distinguished s. n. *Gymnura rafflesii*, var: *candida*, states, »all the specimens received from Labuan dif- "fer from the typical form in being of a white colour, "only a part of the longest and strongest hairs on the "trunk being black. The head, legs and tail are pure "white. As no structural differences can be discovered "either in the skull, or dentition, or any other part of "the body, I consider it sufficient to distinguish this form "as a merely local variety."

As I returned home I examited what we possess in our collection of the named species and found two dark colored specimens, one from Sumatra, Padang-bessie,

collected by the late S. Müller, the other from Malacca and an albino-specimen from Borneo, many years ago sent over by the late Dr. Schwaner; and further two complete skeletons, one of the Sumatra-specimen, the other of the Borneo-individual. In comparing these skeletons I soon saw that they presented many differences and now, having closely studied and compared them, I do not hesitate to say that we have here to do with two distinct species. I will shortly explain the differences, which I have observed. In the skull of the Borneo-specimen the molars and canines have not yet attained their full growth, while in the other all the teeth are well developed, and although the former must for this reason be regarded as a younger individual, it is nevertheless larger and its skeleton is much stouter in all its forms and dimensions. In both of them the number of vertebra and costae is the same, viz: 15 dorsales with 15 ribs, 5 lumbares, 5 sacrales and 26 caudales. The skull of the Borneo-specimen is of a more elongate form, and less broad than in the Sumatra-specimen.

	Sumatra-sp.	Borneo-sp.
	m.m.	m.m.
Length of skull	75	79.5
Width between jugalia	38	36.5
Distance between the foremost corner of the eyehole and the first incisor	33.5	37

In the Sumatra-specimen the palate is more excavated, but shorter than in the other one, measuring in the latter 49 m.m. and in the former 46 m.m. As I have already mentioned the teeth in the Borneo-skull are not wholly developed, and indeed instead of each foremost upper incisor there are two teeth, of which the hindest is the smaller, and instead of the large canines I see in each upper jaw two smaller teeth, and in each lower a single tooth which is but a little larger than the incisors. The second molars in both jaws also are not yet fullgrown. But the teeth in general and especially the molars are much stouter, larger and broader than in the Sumatra-skull.

The whole upper molar series of the Borneo-specimen measures 27 m.m., while those parts in the Sumatra-specimen measure 23 m.m., and in the lower jaw respectively 28 m.m and 24 m.m. In the upper jaw of the Sumatra-skull the second and third incisors are crowded together, buth in the Borneo-skull they show a small interval. For the rest the form of the teeth is the same in both skulls.

There are still more points in which the very parts of the skulls and skeletons differ, for instance the shoulder-blades and pelvis-bones, but as easily as such differences are to be seen by direct comparison as difficult it is to explain them without exact figures and large and extensive descriptions. Moreover I believe that what I have said, will suffice to convince Naturalists that the Borneo form is a good and distinct species. I propose to call this species "*candida*", a name given by Dr. Günther, vide antea l. c.

Externally I find the following characters; *Gymnura candida* is pure white, there are only a few hairs on the back which have black tips; generally the hairs are shorter and scarcer; the head is more elongate and the whole habitus is stouter.

I do not doubt that more characters are to be found if fresh specimens are examined and compared.